



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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November 4, 2004

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WM-3**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PARTIAL FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF WATER-QUALITY-RELATED STUDIES TO THE
CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Authorize the Interim Chief Engineer of the Flood Control District, or his designee, to contribute \$10,000 from funds available in the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Flood Control District Budget to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) for assisting the California Coalition for Clean Water (CCCW) in completing two water-quality-related studies.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

CSAC is an organization that represents County government before the California legislature, administrative agencies, and the Federal government. The organization has recently become more active in the development of water quality programs and in meeting the goals for clean water in California. In an effort to broaden its knowledge base, CSAC joined the CCCW, which is an alliance of local governments and public agencies, labor, businesses, agriculture, housing and development, and interest groups working towards the establishment and implementation of a sound water quality program that protects water quality while balancing the economic and social needs of the communities and the State. The CCCW is initiating several studies to provide a comprehensive review and assessment of California's water quality program and is

working with the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Performance Review Assessment to develop effective, scientific, and economically defensible regulations and its administration by the State. It is currently soliciting financial assistance to fund several studies. In particular, two studies will provide benefits to the County of Los Angeles.

The first study will develop guidance for the State to consider for its use in conducting economic analyses that are reasonably defensible and complies with the spirit of California Water Code Sections 13241 and 13242. The estimated cost of this study is \$60,000. Currently, there is no single guidance to the Regional Boards and the State Water Resources Control Board on how to appropriately conduct an analysis. This is important to the regulated community since water quality standards, plans, and permits must be justifiable to elected officials and agencies in order to allocate resources and funds to implement programs that are accountable to public scrutiny while improving water quality.

The second study involves developing a scope of work for the independent review of California bacteria objectives. This study will help provide more credible, scientific justification for bacteria objectives relative to beneficial uses of the waters of the State. The estimated cost of this study is \$80,000. The study will include peer review from environmental groups as well as academia. Public Works is in the initial stages of implementing strategies to reduce bacteria in certain receiving waters to comply with the Santa Monica Bay Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). This task presents both technological and funding challenges with no guarantee of meeting the water quality objectives. The proposed study will provide valuable information for assessing water quality and effectiveness of strategies in anticipation of the TMDL reopener in 2006-07 and help provide guidance to the Regional Boards in developing bacteria TMDLs being proposed for other watercourses, harbors, and estuaries.

CCCW membership includes a number of highly qualified individuals previously and currently involved in water quality programs. Their membership includes former Regional Board and State Board officers, consultants, and agency officials. The CCCW has assembled a large number of credible individuals both from academia and consulting firms, not readily available, who have expertise and research capabilities in this area. As funds become available, the CCCW will be initiating its work program including, but not limited to, the two studies.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as it provides Public Works with more knowledge that enables the development of effective water quality programs to meet existing and future TMDL requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Funds for this contribution are available in the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Flood Control District Budget. The District will contribute \$5,000 for the preparation of the economic analysis and \$5,000 to the Bacteria Objective Study. The CCCW has a fundraising goal to raise \$140,000 to fund the studies. Several cities, industry, and other organizations, such as CSAC have or are in the process of contributing to the efforts.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Upon completion of the two studies, copies will be made available to CSAC and the District. The economic analysis is scheduled to officially begin in November 2004 and be completed by March 2005. The initiation of the Bacteria Study is pending allocation of funding. Upon Board approval, the District will distribute the funds to CSAC along with stipulations earmarking the dollars to the two studies. The CCCW will be invoicing CSAC upon approval of this letter.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Not applicable.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects due to this recommended contribution.

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CONCLUSION

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Interim Director of Public Works

GT:kk

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel